CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

5   1.   A method of recognizing data representing a user-drawn character, said method comprising the steps of:

a) accessing spatial stroke data and pressure data captured by a digitizer and representing said user-drawn character wherein respective pressure data is associated with respective spatial stroke data;

10   b) storing said spatial stroke data and pressure data into a computer memory wherein pressure data of a first range represents a first character set and pressure data of a second range represents a second character set;

c) performing character recognition on said spatial stroke data and said pressure data, said step c) comprising the steps of:

15   c1) using said pressure data to identify a character set; and

c2) using said spatial stroke data to identify a particular character within said identified character set; and

d) displaying said particular character on a display screen of a computer system.

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2.   A method as described in Claim 1 wherein said first character set comprises upper case alphabetic characters and wherein said second character set comprises lower case alphabetic characters.

25   3.   A method as described in Claim 1 wherein said first character set comprises characters of a first size and wherein said second character set comprises characters of a second size, said first and second sizes being different.

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4.   A method as described in Claim 1 wherein said first character set comprises characters of a first font and wherein said second character set comprises characters of a second font, said first and second fonts being different.

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5.   A method as described in Claim 1 wherein said first character set comprises characters of a first language and wherein said second character set comprises characters of a second language, said first and second languages being different.

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6.   A method as described in Claim 1 wherein said computer system is a portable computer system.

7.   A method as described in Claim 1 wherein said computer system is

15   a palm sized computer system.

8.   A method as described in Claim 1 wherein said digitizer comprises:
        a first region for capturing spatial stroke data and pressure data associated with alphabetic characters and not numeric characters; and

20.   a second region for capturing spatial stroke data and pressure data associated with numeric characters and not alphabetic characters.

9.   A method as described in Claim 1 wherein said digitizer is separate in area from said display screen.

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10.   A computer system comprising a processor, a memory unit, a display screen and a digitizer wherein said memory contains instructions that

when executed implement a method of recognizing data representing a user-drawn character, said method comprising the steps of:

    a) accessing spatial stroke data and pressure data captured by said digitizer and representing said user-drawn character wherein respective pressure data is associated with respective spatial stroke data;

    b) storing said spatial stroke data and pressure data into said memory wherein pressure data of a first range represents a first character set and pressure data of a second range represents a second character set;

    c) performing character recognition on said spatial stroke data and said pressure data, said step c) comprising the steps of:

        c1) using said pressure data to identify a character set; and

        c2) using said spatial stroke data to identify a particular character within said identified character set; and

    d) displaying said particular character on said display screen.

11.   A computer system as described in Claim 10 wherein said first character set comprises upper case alphabetic characters and wherein said second character set comprises lower case alphabetic characters.

12.   A computer system as described in Claim 10 wherein said first character set comprises characters of a first size and wherein said second character set comprises characters of a second size, said first and second sizes being different.

13.   A computer system as described in Claim 10 wherein said first character set comprises characters of a first font and wherein said second

character set comprises characters of a second font, said first and second fonts being different.

14.   A computer system as described in Claim 10 wherein said first character set comprises characters of a first language and wherein said second character set comprises characters of a second language, said first and second languages being different.

15.   A computer system as described in Claim 10 wherein said computer system is a portable computer system.

16.   A computer system as described in Claim 10 wherein said computer system is a palm sized computer system.

17.   A computer system as described in Claim 10 wherein said digitizer comprises:

a first region for capturing spatial stroke data and pressure data associated with alphabetic characters and not numeric characters; and

a second region for capturing spatial stroke data and pressure data associated with numeric characters and not alphabetic characters.

18.   A method of recognizing handwriting-based data entry comprising the steps of:

a) accessing spatial stroke data and pressure data captured by a digitizer of a computer system and representing said user-drawn stroke wherein respective pressure data is associated with respective spatial data;

b) storing said spatial stroke data and pressure data into a computer memory wherein pressure data of a first range represents an object of a first display attribute and pressure data of a second range represents an object of a second display attribute;

5   c) determining an object display attribute based on said pressure data;

d) drawing a representation of said user-drawn stroke on a display screen of said computer system simultaneously with said spatial stroke data being accessed by said digitizer wherein said representation of said user-drawn stroke is drawn with said object display attribute as determined at said step c); and

10   e) repeating steps a) - d) until said stroke is complete.

19.   A method as described in Claim 18 wherein said first display attribute is a first width and wherein said second display attribute is a second width.

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20.   A method as described in Claim 18 wherein said stroke is a line.

21.   A method as described in Claim 18 wherein said computer system is a palm sized computer system.

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22.   A method as described in Claim 18 wherein said computer system is a portable computer system.

23.   A method as described in Claim 18 wherein said digitizer is

25   separate in area from said display screen.

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24.   In a computer system, a method of performing authentication comprising the steps of:

a) accessing spatial stroke data and pressure data captured by a digitizer of said computer system and representing a user-drawn signature wherein

5   respective pressure data is associated with respective spatial stroke data;

b) storing said spatial stroke data and pressure data into a computer memory;

c) comparing said spatial stroke data and pressure data of said user-drawn signature to stored spatial stroke data and pressure data of a reference signature

10   for a match;

d) generating an authentication signal upon a match of said step c); and

e) provided said authentication signal is generated, allowing a user access to said computer system, otherwise prohibiting said user from accessing a portion of said computer system.

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25.   A method as described in Claim 24 wherein said computer system is a palm sized computer system.

26.   A method as described in Claim 24 wherein said digitizer is

20   separate in area from said display screen.

27.   A method as described in Claim 24 wherein step a) further comprises the step of accessing speed information representing said user-drawn signature and wherein step c) further comprises the step of comparing said speed

25   information with reference speed information of a reference signature for said match.

28.   A method as described in Claim 24 wherein said computer system is a portable computer system.